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# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS



## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Public Health Department

for the Year ended

31st December, 1959



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# NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Chairman of the Council:  
COUNCILLOR J. V. CARR

Vice-Chairman:  
COUNCILLOR C. L. TYRER

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer:  
J. ROBERTS, A.R.V.A.

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## Health Committee:

Chairman  
COUNCILLOR L. KENT

Vice-Chairman:  
COUNCILLOR C. L. TYRER

## Members:

Councillor MRS. E. CROUCHLEY  
„ E. J. GILLESPIE  
„ F. HOUGHTON  
„ C. S. JONES  
„ E. J. THOMPSON  
„ H. T. CONROY

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### Staff:

Medical Officer of Health:

A. C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

\* L. M. BOOTH, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

\* J. ROBINSON, Cert. S.I.B. M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk:

MRS. B. M. LIGHTFOOT

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

M. D. TICKLE

\* Qualified Meat and Other Foods Inspector (R.S.H.)



NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS U.D.C.  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
1959

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## PREFACE

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration and approval my Annual Report, as your Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1959, which follows the customary and well-established pattern of previous reports, and includes, in addition to the vital statistics of the Urban District and records relating to environmental health, information relating to the more personal health and welfare services of the County Council, as a Local Health Authority designated by the National Health Service Act 1946: which services of course must clearly influence the general health of the population, and therefore be of interest to the Committee, although outside the scope of its statutory responsibilities.

The population—(as estimated by the Registrar General for the mid-year)—stands at 21,990—just 100 less than for the previous year, despite a “natural increase” of 123. It is I feel of interest, and indeed somewhat surprising, to note how slight has been the variation in population from year to year during the past decade: in 1950 the figure was 21,920, only 70 less than the present year. Consideration of these figures leads to the conclusion that the immigration and emigration to and from the district is very delicately balanced, and suggests a gentle ebb and flow: clearly there is little or no trend towards expansion. As against the relatively constant population figure there has of course been a steady increase in the number of inhabited houses, amounting over the ten years to 730 houses—from 6312 in 1950 to 7042 in 1959.

The number of live-births, 349, is rather strangely exactly the same as in 1957, and 24 more than in 1958: similarly, the crude live birth rate of 15.9/1000 population, again the same as 1957, compares favourably with the corresponding rate of 14.7 in 1958. The adjusted live-birth rate of 15.6/1000 is slightly below that for England and Wales as a whole (16.5/1000), as indeed is usually the case. Of these 349 live births, only 6 were illegitimate, giving a proportion of only 1.7% of total live-births—a very creditable index indeed. The number of still-births, 8 in all, giving a still-birth rate of 22.4 per 1000 *total* births, is 4 less than in 1958; and calculated as a rate per 1000 of the total population gives an index of 0.36, as compared with that for England

and Wales of 0.35. Infant deaths—(of babies under the age of 12 months)—also totalled 8, being 7 male and 1 female, an infant-mortality rate of 22.9 per 1000 live births: and of these 8, 7 died within the first 4 weeks of life (neo-natal death), a rate of 20.1/1000 live births. All these figures relating to still births, neo-natal and total infant deaths show a material improvement on the comparable for 1958, and can therefore be regarded with some degree of satisfaction, although *not* with complacency.

Of recent years considerable attention has been directed to the importance of what has now come to be known as “peri-natal mortality,” or the rate which combines the figures for still-births with those of deaths in the first week of life, because of course the causes of still-birth are very closely related to the causes of death of sickly and premature infants in this critical first week, and obviously our efforts to reduce further the overall total of infant deaths must first assess the probable causes of still-birth and neo-natal death and direct our preventive efforts towards the eradication of these causes. The Registrar General has therefore requested Medical Officers of Health to include in this year’s vital statistics, and in subsequent years, this peri-natal mortality rate” and “early neo-natal mortality rate,” which are calculated respectively as 42.0/1000 total births and 20.1/1000 live births.

The maternal mortality rate fortunately remains the same as for the two previous years: no woman died as the result of pregnancy, childbirth, or conditions associated therewith.

Turning now from factors concerning the beginning of life to those at its end, we find that the number of deaths of persons belonging to the Urban District was 226, being 117 males and 109 females, as compared with last years total of 249. The “crude” (or actual) death rate is thus 10.3 per 1000 population, as compared with 11.3/1000 in 1958, and a quinquennial mean rate of 10.5/1000. When multiplied by the comparability factors of 1.15 (as computed by the Registrar General) the district shows an “adjusted death rate” of 11.8/1000, which bears very favourable comparison with the rate for England and Wales as a whole of 11.6/1000 persons living.

An analysis of the causes of death as stated on the individual death certificates reveals the now familiar pattern of heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system as the cause of death in a big majority of cases (83) followed by malignant diseases, usually designated as “cancers” (44) apoplexies or “strokes” (27), bronchitis, pneumonia and influenza (24), “other defined and ill-defined diseases” (17) and deaths of a violent character, the majority accidental in origin (16). Of the 83 deaths in the first group, excluding the strokes, 24 were due to coronary disease (of the blood vessels of the heart) or angina, and 44 to other types of heart disease as distinct from diseases of the circulation, such as hypertension and arteriosclerosis. This figure of 44, which seems a high proportion, whilst including deaths from heart-failure consequent on rheumatic and other valvular disease, will undoubtedly include many cases on which the failure of the heart has been



the terminal feature of the illness, rather than the essential cause of the final illness: consequently too much reliance should not be placed on their apparent values. By contrast, the fatalities due to strokes are usually very clear-cut, and it is of interest to note the almost equal sex incidence, 14 males to 13 females, in the current year, as compared with a great preponderance of female deaths (16 to 8) last year.

Cancer deaths are slightly fewer than in 1958, the total being 44 as against 49: the sex incidence was roughly equal, 23 females to 21 males. The commonest single site in the body—in every case the body of the male—was the lungs or bronchi: ten men died during this one year from “broncho-genic carcinoma.” Cancer of the stomach accounted for 9 deaths in all, 6 females and 3 males, and cancer of the breast for 8: whilst cancer in sites and organs other than the above ended the lives of 15 persons, 8 males and 7 females.

Of the diseases principally affecting the respiratory system, deaths from pneumonia were somewhat commoner in women than in men, by 7 to 4, whereas the converse obtained in the case of deaths from bronchitis where the respective numbers were 2 and 6. Influenza itself was primarily responsible for the deaths of 3 persons, and respiratory tuberculosis for the deaths of only 2, both males.

Deaths of a violent character, or resulting from violence of some kind, were 16 in number, rather less than last year: they included 4 cases of suicide, (2 males and 2 females) and 12 accidents, of which only 4 were associated with motor vehicles and 8 with other accidental injuries.

The year has been one showing a moderate incidence of notifiable diseases, with a total of 419 in contrast with the low incidence (of 158) in 1958, but almost identical with the quinquennial mean figure of 426 for the period '54-'58 inclusive. Once again measles cases were predominate, with 324 notifications received, as compared with 1 last year: then, rather strangely, came 45 cases of primary and/or influenzal pneumonia, (which accounted for 2 deaths); 42 cases of whooping cough, (1 in 1958), 39 cases of Scarlet Fever, a higher figure than in 1958, but only one half (approximately) of the quinquennial mean of 75, then 7 cases of respiratory tuberculosis, (the cause of a further 2 deaths), and 4 of erysipelas. The overall picture of infectious disease during the year thus excites no comment, other than the complete absence throughout the district of diphtheria, the enteric group fevers, dysentery, food poisoning, ophthalmia neonatorum, puerperal pyrexia, and of course the group with neurological manifestations, poliomyelitis, polio encephalitis, and meningococcal meningitis.

In reviewing the “public health” needs of the Urban District there is little that can be added to my comments in this preface to my Report of a year ago. Better housing conditions and cleaner, purer air, still remain the top priorities, if one excludes the completion of the Sankey Valley Sewerage Scheme, as yet

uncompleted: and bound up with this, naturally, comes the improvements in the condition of the streams and watercourses in the district. Following the Public Enquiry held in March by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government the Clearance Order made by the Council for the Grafton Street area was confirmed and rehousing of the tenants of these dwellings has been proceeding steadily. Recommendations for the introduction of "smokeless areas" have been accepted and will be implemented in due course. The importance of hastening work on the Sankey Valley sewers was emphasized during the late summer as the result of many complaints about offensive odours and noxious fumes emanating from the St. Helens & Sankey Canal in the neighbourhood of the Sankey Sugar Works: appropriate action was taken to relieve the position after consultation with officers of the British Transport Commission, the Mersey Rivers Board, the Sankey Valley Scheme Contractors, and the management of the factory.

Details of the work carried out and the services supplied by the "Local Health Authority" under the provisions of the National Health Service Act 1946 (Part iii), and the Lancashire County Council Divisional Health Administration Scheme 1947, made thereunder, will be found later in the text of this Report. This work has proceeded evenly and with quiet efficiency throughout the year to the benefit and, I have every reason to believe, also to the satisfaction of the citizens of the District.

In conclusion I would like to take the opportunity of expressing to you, Mr. Chairman, and to every Member of the Health Committee, and of the Council, my unstinted thanks for the interest, encouragement and support that you have shown to the Health Department, and to myself as your Medical Officer of Health. To my colleagues in other Departments also my gratitude goes out for their ever-willing assistance and co-operation in matters of mutual interest: and finally I must place on record my sincere appreciation of the work done by Mr. Booth, the Chief Public Health Inspector, by Mr. Robinson, the Additional Inspector, and by Mrs. Lightfoot, who constitutes the clerical staff of the Health Department and is an essential member of a loyal, willing and (I would respectfully submit for your approval), effective team of workers in the field of preventive medicine.

I have the Honour to be

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. C. CRAWFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.



## 1. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The major portion of the district is truly urban in character, with a relatively small acreage of rural character. It is built up with dwelling houses, with Shops, Offices, Workshops, Factories, Churches, Mission Halls, Clubs, Hotels, and all the usual ancillary buildings which serve a civilised community. The main industries are Light and Heavy Engineering, including rolling-stock maintainance and repair, Sugar Refining, Printing and Stationery manufacture, and Raincoat manufacture. As would be expected from the urban character of the district, agriculture plays only a very minor role in its activities.

## 2. STATISTICS—GENERAL

Area in acres: 3103.

Population: (Census, 1951)	....	....	....	....	21,862
(Estimated mid-1959)	....	....	....	....	21,990
Inhabited Houses: Rate Books (end 1959)	....	....	....	....	7,042
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	£186,717
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	....	£736
Births assignable to District	....	....	....	....	349
Deaths assignable to District	....	....	....	....	226
“Natural Increase”	....	....	....	....	123

## 3. VITAL STATISTICS

### Births:

<b>Live Births</b>	349	Legitimate	343	Illegitimate	6
		Male	185	Male	3
		Female	158	Female	3

Live Birth Rate “Crude”—15.9. “Adjusted”—15.6.

**Still Births** 8 Male 2 Female 6

Still Birth Rate 22.4 per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.

### Deaths:

**General:** 226 Male 117 Female 109

Death Rates “Crude”—10.3 “Adjusted”—11.8

The “adjusted” death rate is the “crude” death rate after adjustment by a “comparability factor” supplied by the Registrar General.

**Infant Deaths** (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age)

Total 8 Male 7 Female 1

Infant Mortality Rate of Legitimate Infants.... 23.3

Infant Mortality Rate of Illegitimate Infants .... nil

Total Infant Mortality Rate .... 22.9

### Neo-Natal Mortality

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age 7

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births 20.1

**Early Neo-natal** mortality rate per 1,000 live births 20.1

**Peri-natal** mortality rate per 1,000 total births 42.0

**Maternal Deaths** Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate Nil

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLES

Year	Live Births		Deaths (All causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. regst.	Rate per 1000 popn.	No. regst.	Rate per 1000 popn.	No. regst.	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regst.	Rate per 1000 total births	No of deaths regst.	Rate per 1000 live births	No of deaths regst.	Rate per 1000 live births
1959	349	*15.9	226	*10.3	8	22.4	nil	nil	8	22.9	7	20.1
1958	325	14.7	249	11.3	12	36	nil	nil	13	40	11	34
1957	349	15.9	225	10.3	7	20	nil	nil	9	26	8	23
1956	308	14.1	223	10.2	18	55	1	3.07	10	32	9	29
1955	306	14.0	221	10.1	4	13	nil	nil	9	29	6	20
1954	292	13.4	236	10.8	16	52	nil	nil	9	31	6	21
Avge 5 years 1954 1958	316	14.4	231	10.5	11	35.2	0.2	0.6	10	31.6	8	25.4

\* Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 0.98) = 15.6 per 1000.  
\* Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.15) = 11.8 per 1000.

COMPARISON OF BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, AND ANALYSIS OF MORBIDITY AND MORALITY, WITH THOSE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

					Newton-le-Willows		England and Wales
					1958	1959	1959
					Rate per 1,000 population		
<b>Births</b> —Live .....					14·7	15·6	16·5
—Still .....					* 0·54	0·36	0·35
<b>Deaths</b> —							
All causes .....					11·3	10·3	11·6
Tuberculosis (all forms) .....					0·09	0·090	0·085
Respiratory .....					0·09	0·090	0·077
Non respiratory .....					nil	nil	0·008
Cancer (all forms) .....					2·22	2·00	2·14
Lungs & Bronchus .....					0·58	0·45	0·46
Other Cancer .....					1·63	1·54	1·68
					Rate per 1,000 total births		
Maternal Mortality (total) .....					nil	nil	0·38
Maternal causes (excluding abortion) .....					nil	nil	0·32
Due to abortion .....					nil	nil	0·06
					Rate per 1,000 live births		
Infant Mortality .....					40	22·9	22·0
Neo-natal mortality .....					33·8	20·1	15·8
					Rate per 1,000 Population		
<b>Notifications</b> —							
Typhoid Fever .....					nil	nil	0·003
Paratyphoid Fever .....					nil	nil	0·008
Meningococcal Infection .....					nil	nil	0·016
Scarlet Fever .....					1·17	1·772	1·055
Whooping Cough .....					0·05	1·909	0·732
Diphtheria .....					nil	nil	0·002
Erysipelas .....					0·18	0·181	0·071
Small Pox .....					nil	nil	0·000
Measles .....					3·21	14·727	11·880
Ac. Pneumonia .....					1·90	2·045	0·590
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) .....					0·05	nil	0·016

\* per 1,000 total births.



**Deaths.** The total number of deaths registered in the District was 162. 13 of these were non-residents, and have been transferred to the districts in which they usually resided: whilst 77 residents of this area died in other districts.

An analysis of the causes of death is shown below:

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ....	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm— Stomach ....	3	6	9
Lungs, Bronchus	10	—	10
Breast ....	—	8	8
All other sites ....	8	7	15
Leukaemia ....	—	2	2
Diabetes ....	—	1	1
Vas. Lesions of Nervous System ....	14	13	27
Coronary disease, angina ....	13	11	24
Hypertension with heart disease ....	3	2	5
Other Heart disease ....	20	24	44
Other circulatory diseases ....	4	6	10
Influenza ....	1	2	3
Pneumonia ....	4	7	11
Bronchitis ....	6	2	8
Other respiratory diseases ....	—	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....	5	—	5
Gastritis, Enteritis ....	—	1	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis ....	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ....	3	—	3
Congenital malformations ....	1	1	2
Other defined or ill defined diseases ....	10	7	17
Motor vehicle accidents ....	3	1	4
All other accidents ....	5	3	8
Suicide ....	2	2	4
<hr/>			
All causes ....	117	109	226
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#### 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

##### Water Supplies

The District's water supply continued to be obtained chiefly from the deep wells at the Council's Southworth Road Works, and Makerfield Borehole.

The water is of a high degree of purity and, though very hard is otherwise very satisfactory chemically.

20 bacteriological examinations of the raw water, and 9 of the water going into supply after treatment, were made. All highly satisfactory.

7041 dwelling houses, housing a population of 22,087 persons, are supplied with water from public mains. 1 house with 3 occupants draws supplies from a spring.

All new houses have been connected to the town's water mains.

## Food—Inspection and Supervision of Supplies

### (a) Milk Supply

Supervision of the distribution of Milk was continued and the following action was taken in relation to:—

				No. of Samples	No. satis- factory	No. unsatis- factory
(a)	Raw Milk					
	(i)	Tuberculosis— biological tests	....	.... 26	.... 26 (T.B. neg)	.... Nil
	(ii)	Methylene Blue reduction test	....	.... 26	.... 19	..... 7
(b)	“Heat Treated” Milk					
	(i)	Phosphatase test	....	.... 37	.... 37	.... Nil
	(ii)	Methylene Blue reduction test	....	.... 37	.... 33	.... 4
	(iii)	Turbidity test	....	.... 13	.... 13	.... Nil

### (b) Meat and Other Foods

Except for occasional slaughter by pig keepers of their own pigs for home consumption no slaughtering took place within the district.

All premises used for food preparation, butchers, grocers, ice-cream manufacturers and vendors, bakehouses, etc., were kept under observation and inspected regularly.

No case of food poisoning was notified.

### (c) Adulteration

The Council is a Food and Drugs Authority and your Public Health Inspectors are sampling Officers.

82 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst, County Offices, Preston.

**Rivers and Streams**—Pollution of the several main streams running through the district from Ashton, Golborne, Haydock and St. Helens continues to varying degrees. Measures taken to deal with such pollution must of necessity be extemporary pending the completion of the Sankey Valley Sewerage Scheme, which should ease the position materially.

**Drainage and Sewerage**—Extensions have been made to all new houses. The connections from this District to the Sankey Valley trunk sewer have not yet been made.

## 5. HOUSING

2,425 houses and flats are owned by the Council, of which 1182 have been built in the post-war period.

During the year 55 houses have been erected by the local authority and 33 houses by other bodies or persons.

**Closet Accommodation**—Every privy and pail in the district has been converted to the water carriage system except for the few which are beyond reach of a sewer, below sewer level, or isolated by streams, railway lines or the canal.

Number of privy middens	....	....	....	....	....	7
Number of closets attached to these middens	....					7
Number of pail closets	....	....	....	....	....	32
Number of chemical closets	....	....	....	....	....	5
Number of houses on water carriage system	....					6998

There are no waste water closets and no dry ashpits in the district.

**Public Cleansing**—A weekly collection of house refuse and salvage by motor vehicles, and disposal of the former by controlled tipping, are supervised by the Public Health Inspector.

No regular cleansing of cesspools is undertaken.

Scavenging, snow removal, gully emptying etc., are carried out by the Surveyor's Department.

Disposal of house refuse was by controlled tipping at the Swan Road site



## 6. PREVENTION OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

### Hospital Admissions

Hospital facilities for the treatment of cases of infectious diseases are provided at the Infectious Disease Hospital, Warrington, where isolation and treatment were provided for 17 cases 14 of these being of Scarlet Fever, and at Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital where 6 cases of Scarlet Fever were isolated.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases Notified											
	Age Groups											
	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25 and over	Age un-known	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever .....	39	—	1	2	5	5	21	4	1	—	—	nil
Measles .....	324	8	35	49	33	50	149	—	—	—	—	nil
Whooping Cough	42	3	4	3	9	4	18	1	—	—	—	nil
		0	5	15	45	65 and over	Age Unknown		Total Deaths			
		1	8	14	11	11	—		2			
		—	—	3	1	—	—		nil			
		7	1	2	3	1	—		2			
		—	—	—	—	—	—		nil			

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—Comparative Table of Incidence

Disease	1959 Cases Deaths	1954 Cases Deaths	1955 Cases Deaths	1956 Cases Deaths	1957 Cases Deaths	1958 Cases Deaths	1954-58 Cases Deaths	Mean Deaths
Scarlet Fever ....	39	25	121	139	64	26	75	—
Diphtheria ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ....	324	131	228	395	397	71	244	—
Whooping Cough ....	42	19	67	102	24	1	43	—
Enteric Group Fevers ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ....	—	—	—	—	2	1	0.6	—
Food Poisoning ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum....	—	—	—	—	1	—	0.2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	—	2	1	1	—	—	0.8	—
Poliomyelitis ....	—	—	—	1	—	1	0.4	—
Meningococcal Infection....	—	—	1	3	—	—	0.8	0.2
Acute Encephalitis Infective ....	—	—	—	2	—	—	0.4	0.2
Post Infectious ....	—	—	1	—	—	—	0.2	—
Primary & Influenzal Pneumonia ....	45	24	21	42	50	42	35	2.2
Erysipelas ....	4	9	9	11	7	4	8	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory ....	7	18	12	9	21	10	14	1.8
Non-respiratory ....	—	2	4	4	2	2	2.8	0.2
TOTALS ....	461	230	465	709	568	158	426	4.6

7. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

- (1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	9	1	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ....	51	37	2	—
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises ....	8	6	—	—
Totals ....	63	52	3	—

- (2) **Cases in which Defects were found**  
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

Particulars (1)	No of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s.1.) ....	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences insufficient (s.7.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ....	1	1	1	—	—
Totals ....	3	3	1	—	—



## **8. PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT**

### **(1) Laboratory Arrangements**

#### **Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department.**

Pathological specimens for bacteriological analysis may be dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service at its Monsall Laboratory, Monsall Green, Near Manchester, or alternatively at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Samples of food and drugs for analysis are submitted to the County Analyst's Department at Preston, whilst as regards water supplies, the arrangements previously in force with Messrs. Melling & Arden, Manchester, have been continued.

### **(2) Hospital Arrangements**

#### **(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board: Warrington & District Hospital Management Committee)**

As regards hospitals the District lies within the boundaries of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, which administers Newton-le-Willows War Memorial (General) Hospital in Bradlegh Road, Wargrave, with a nominal establishment of 10 beds. The former Isolation Hospital now accommodates an up-to-date and well equipped Out-patient department, including X-ray and physiotherapy facilities: and in addition, a modern specially designed Chest Clinic, under the direction of Dr. Black, Consultant Chest Physician for the Warrington area.

The great majority of persons requiring both general out-patient and in-patient investigation and treatment are dealt with by the Warrington Infirmary and by the General Hospital, Warrington, whilst cases of infectious disease requiring isolation are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Aikin Street, Warrington.

Expectant mothers requiring to be confined otherwise than in their own homes, whether on medical, obstetrical or social grounds, are normally admitted either to the maternity wards of the General Hospital Warrington (if obstetrical complications are likely) or to the Victoria Park Maternity Home, Latchford, Warrington. But in the event of beds being unavailable at these hospitals, the bookings are then made with Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, St. Helens, The County Hospital, Whiston, or Billinge Hospital, depending on bed availability.

Child patients requiring attention in Children's Hospitals are admitted to the paediatric wards of the General Hospital, Warrington; the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Myrtle Street, Liverpool, Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool, and to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, Manchester: and the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan: Also to the Leasowe Children's Hospital, Leasowe, Wirral, and the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital, Biddulph, Near Congleton, when specialised Orthopaedic care is indicated.

**(3) Ambulance Arrangements**

**Local Health Authority Services (No. 10 Health Division, Lancashire County Council)**

Full responsibility for the management and operation of the Ambulance Service rests with the County Council as the Local Health Authority, and the district is fortunately placed in containing a County Ambulance Station, sited in conjunction with the Fire Station in Borron Road, Earlestown (Telephone Newton-le-Willows 2013), from which three “Stretcher” ambulances, two dual-purpose vehicles and one sitting case car, have operated on behalf of all types of cases, i.e. emergency, infectious disease, and general.

There has been a further increase in the public demand for ambulance transport, as is shown by the subjoined summary of cases conveyed from the Urban District. The Earlestown Ambulance Station, of course, also serves other parts of No. 10 Health Division and adjoining divisions, with which it is now linked by radio telephone.

Summary of Cases Conveyed		
Non Urgent Cases	....	9,331
Emergency Cases	....	724
		<hr/>
		10,055
		<hr/>

**(4) Treatment Centres and Clinics**

Child Welfare Clinics are held twice weekly at The Gables, Crow Lane West, on Monday and Thursday afternoons; and an Ante Natal Clinic each Wednesday morning.

Attendances at the Welfare sessions have been very satisfactory throughout the year, as is shown by the following figures.

**Child Welfare Centre, “The Gables,” Crow Lane West**

Assistant Divisional Medical Officer: Dr. E. T. Smiddy (Thursday afternoon session)

Health Visitors: Miss Heap, Mrs, Burrows and Mrs. Speakman.

<i>No. of sessions during the year</i>	<i>No. of individual children who attended and were born in</i>			<i>No. of attendances by children at ages</i>		
	1959	1958	1957-54	0—	1—	2-4 <i>incl.</i>
101	211	186	316	6,138	958	553
Total		713		7,649		

### **Ante-Natal Clinic. “The Gables,” Crow Lane West.**

Consultant Obstetrician	....	....	....	Mr. Gordon Millington ( <i>Alternate Wednesday Mornings</i> )
Medical Officer	....	....	....	Dr. E. T. Smiddy
Health Visitor	....	....	....	Miss I. Heap
No. of individual women attending				144
No. of attendances	....	....	....	431

### **School Clinic. “The Gables,” Crow Lane West**

#### **General**

Both general medical and specialist sessions are held at this Clinic, as detailed below:-

Assistant Division School Medical Officer — Dr. E. T. Smiddy

School Nurses and Health Visitors in attendance — Mrs. Speakman and Mrs. Burrows

The Assistant Divisional Medical Officer's Session is held each Friday morning during school term.

The Nurse's re-dressing, etc., session is held each Tuesday morning during school term.

#### **Dental**

The School Dental Officer, Mr. W. J. Meakin, ably assisted by the Dental Attendant, Miss Entwistle, has continued the dental inspection of all school children in the district during periodic visits to schools, and afforded both conservative and radical treatment to those requiring it. Expectant and nursing mothers, and children of pre-school age are also eligible for advice and treatment including where necessary the provision of dentures for the former group.

#### **Ophthalmic**

Ophthalmologist — Mr. Barker

School Nurse in attendance — Mrs. Speakman

Sessions are held weekly, each Monday morning.

The Ophthalmic Surgeon may only be consulted by appointment.



## **Orthopaedic**

Orthopaedic Surgeon—Mr. Almond.

Orthopaedic Nurse—Mrs. Garrett.

The Orthopaedic Surgeon attends one half day session monthly, seeing both new and old cases by appointment: the Nurse attends one whole day weekly, for the purpose of supervising the treatment prescribed, for adjustment of splints, etc., and for the tuition of remedial exercises to improve defects and deformities in posture, stance, feet, etc. She also attends with suitable cases at the St. Helens Baths, to instruct in remedial exercises carried out in the water.

## **Speech Therapy**

Therapist—Miss Cowan.

Sessions held each Thursday a.m. and p.m. (By appointment only).

## **(5) Midwifery Arrangements**

The district has been covered by three fully trained whole-time domiciliary midwives, each of whom has a car available for her duties, and has under-gone a course of instruction in gas-air and trilene analgesia. She has available the necessary apparatus to enable a mother to secure at all events very considerable relief from the pains of labour. The trend towards hospital confinement has also continued, and as a result of these factors the number of babies actually born at home has been reduced.

Mrs. S. E. Butler, 46 Kingsway, Wargrave.

Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 3210.

Miss E. Critchley, 73 Common Road.

Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 3778.

(Commenced duty January, 1958).

Miss A. M. Turner, 73 Common Road.

Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 3778.

(Resigned October, 1959).

## **(6) Health Visiting Arrangements**

This work has been carried out by three whole-time and fully trained Health Visitors (whom combined with Health Visiting duties those of School Nurse), and by one part-time Health Visitor: these domiciliary visits, so necessary from the standpoint both of the supervision of the children and the health education of the families, are of course, complementary to the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre, as described above. The names and addresses of the Health Visitors engaged are:—

Miss I. Heap, Maynard, Belvedere Road, Earlestown.

Mrs. E. Burrows, 33 Regal Drive, Windle, St. Helens.

Miss E. Atkinson, 88 Whitefield Road, Walton, Warrington.

Mrs. Speakman, 36 Brooke Lane, Pemberton.

Mrs. M. Parker (Part time), Higher Astley, Vitriol Square, Earlestown.

## **(7) Home Nursing Arrangements.**

Home nursing is now undertaken by four whole-time nurses, assisted by a state enrolled Assistant Nurse in suitable cases. The demand for nursing services has continued to grow, and although part-time relief nurses have also assisted from time to time, the staff have been kept very fully occupied throughout the year.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Nurses are:-

Mrs. M.M. Charnley, 3 Park Avenue North, Newton-le-Willows.  
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 2069.

Mrs. O. Falcon, 60 Grosvenor Gardens, Newton-le-Willows.  
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 2419.

Miss D. Johnson, 158 Park Road South, Newton-le-Willows.  
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 3539.

Miss M. Littler, 69 Oak Avenue, Newton-le-Willows.  
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 3521.

Mrs. E. M. Ward, 138 Belvedere Road.

## **Nursing Equipment—Provision for Loans.**

A wide variety of ancillary nursing equipment which may be required in the home—ranging from hospital type beds, wheel-chairs, dunlopillo mattresses and similar large items, down to smaller but none-the-less essential articles such as feeding cups, air rings, bed pans etc., is available on loan on the recommendation of the Nurse having charge of the case, at no cost to the patient except for damage not occasioned by reasonable “wear and tear”. Some of the larger items are available from small central stocks held at the Divisional Health Offices, whilst each nurse holds a small local supply of the less bulky and more frequently required articles.

## **(8) Home Help Arrangements.**

This is a “permissive” service provided by the County Council through No. 10 Divisional Health Committee, and is one which is not necessarily provided free of cost to the public although in the great majority of cases it is so. The aim is to provide domestic help when required by reason of the presence in a household of sickness, mental deficiency, an expectant mother, or to assist in the care of a child or children. The service has continued to expand during the year in question as the public have become more fully aware of the facilities provided, and in certain urgent cases “evening help” and night help have been made available.

The Home Helps engaged are all part-time “helps”; no whole time workers are employed. The Home Help Organiser and Welfare Worker, Miss P. Butler, is responsible for the immediate day-to-day operation of the scheme and is one of the Divisional Medical Officer’s Staff. Responsibilities for Welfare Services under the National Assistance Act, 1948, have entailed still further expansion of this service.

During the current year the number of cases helped in the Urban District was 271, of which 232 were persons aged 65 or more. This help was provided by 78 Home-helps, all part-time workers, the majority of whom were employed from 20-30 hours per week.

### **(9) Mental Health**

In this field undoubtedly the most outstanding event of the year has been the introduction of the Mental Health Act, 1959, which will of course when fully operative, effect many radical changes in the manner of dealing with those suffering from mental disorders of all kinds, whether congenital or acquired, and which repeals the Lunacy Act of 1890, the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1938, and the Mental Treatment Act of 1930. Arising largely as the result of certain cases which shocked the public’s conscience, its full benefit can of course be expected only after a considerable interval of time, as the gradual process of re-education and re-orientation of ideas on the whole problem reaches fruition, and the necessary building programmes for residential and training hostels, both for juveniles and adults, can be framed, financed, completed and staffed.

Meanwhile the Junior Training Centre off Mill Lane, opened early in 1958, has continued to provide suitable vocational and recreational training for some thirty handicapped persons, both children and adults.

### **Mental Health Arrangements.**

The Urban District, being part of the Health Division, is covered for this purpose by three Duly Authorised Officers of No. 10 Health Division, one a lady Mental Worker, who deal with all the aspects of mental health, including all cases in which investigation, supervision and appropriate action is required under the Lunacy Acts, Mental Deficiency Acts, and the Mental Treatment Act.

The names and addresses of these officers are:-

Mr. Griffin, Divisional Health Office, The Old Rectory Winwick.  
Telephone: Warrington 33144.

Mr. D. Ryan, Divisional Health Office, The Old Rectory, Winwick.  
Telephone: Warrington 33144.



Miss M. V. Phillips, Divisional Health Office, The Old Rectory, Winwick  
Telephone: Warrington 33144.

Any request for the services of the Duly Authorised Officer outside of normal office hours should be made through the Ambulance Station—Newton-le-Willows 2013.

#### **(10) Arrangements for the Prevention of Illness, Care and after Care, (including Tuberculosis), and the provision of Convalescent Accommodation.**

Responsibility for such arrangements rest with the Local Health Authority partly on an obligatory and partly on a permissive basis: "illness" includes mental defectiveness. The scope of such arrangements is very wide and includes all the methods of health education and propaganda relating to health matters, health visiting in the homes, including those of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, the provision of ancillary nursing equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation and rehabilitation where this is required, to enable those recently sick to regain full health and strength.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor for the District is Miss Monks, who maintains supervision of patients in their homes, and arranges for their examination or re-examination, and for that of contacts (including X-ray investigation) at the Chest Clinic at Bradlegh Road Hospital, administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, and attended by Dr. Black, the Consultant Chest Physician, Warrington area, and the Assistant Chest Physician, Dr. White.

As regards Health Education—(a very important and essential factor in the prevention of illness—it is pertinent here to emphasize that although some responsibility for this section of preventive medicine may be accepted (as has been the case) by the local health Authority, the permissive power of the Council as a Local Sanitary Authority to carry out measures of health education under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is still extant and should, in my view, continue to be exercised.

#### **(11) Vaccination and Immunisation Arrangements.**

Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, are available to all who desire it, either through the family doctor, who carries it out as part of his duties to the patient, or by attendance at the immunisation sessions held at the Child Welfare Centre, The Gables Crow Lane West, where this work is carried out by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officer.

As regards the immunisation position, there are no grounds for complacency: the position has deteriorated slightly since 1957.

The percentage proportion of the estimated child population under the age of 15 in an immunised state at 31st. December, 1959, was 63% as against a figure of 65% for the child population in Health Division 10 as a whole.

In contrast to the above, only 149 persons, of whom 110 were infants under 1 year of age, underwent primary vaccination whilst 29 adults were re-vaccinated. If one deducts from the total of 332 live births belonging to the District in 1958, the 8 infant deaths, this means that out of the 324 survivors, 110 were vaccinated, or approximately 1 in every 3 children born.

During the course of the year the several types of “Antigen” (i.e. inoculation material) continued to be available: in addition to the old established diphtheria toxoids, which protect against diphtheria only, inoculations against whooping cough also, using the “combined” antigen, and additionally against “lock jaw” (tetanus), using the “triple” antigen, were carried out in conformity with the parents’ wishes.

The number of children protected by these various means were as follows.

(a) Against Diphtheria (Primary Inoculations) only.

Under 2 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	nil
2-5 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	nil
From 5 to 14 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	30
Over 14 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	10
						<hr/>
Total Primary Inoculations	....	....	....	....	....	40

Re-inforcement (Booster) Inoculations

Under 5 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	nil
From 5 to 14 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	nil
Over 14 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	8
						<hr/>
Total	....	....	....	....	....	8

(b) Against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough (Combined antigen)

Primary	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	nil
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Booster

Under 5 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	nil
5-14 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Over 14 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	nil
									<hr/>
Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
									<hr/>

(c) Against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus (Triple antigen)

Under 2 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	236
2-5 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	9
From 5 to 14 years of age		....	....	....		9
Over 14 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	nil
Total						254
Booster						
Under 5 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	21
From 5-14 years of age		....	....	....	....	63
Over 14 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	nil
Total						84

The grand totals of children protected by primary inoculations against diphtheria during the year are thus 294 (of which 251 were under 5 years of age), against whooping cough 254 (of which 245 were under 5 years of age), and against tetanus 254, (of which 245 were under the age of 5 years).

**Poliomyelitis Vaccination.**

The programme of "vaccination" against Poliomyelitis, which commenced during 1956, has continued throughout the year with a considerable measure of success, as will be seen from the accompanying analysis, and a total nearly three times as great as that for 1958.

Details of poliomyelitis vaccinations carried out during the year in Newton-le-Willows are as follows:—

No. of children who received two injections:-

Under 5 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	402
From 5 to 14 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1240
15 to 25 years of age....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1042
Total								2684

No. of Reinforcement Injections given:-

Under 5 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	274
From 5 to 14 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1012
15 to 25 years of age	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	84
Total								1370

**(9) The Children Act, 1948.**

In the main this Act provides for the care and welfare of children and young persons up to the age of 18 years, who for one reason or another are deprived of normal home life, and it thus has an important bearing on the mental and physical health of such children.



The County Council, which is the Local Authority for the purposes of the Act, exercises its functions through its Children's Committee and the Childrens Officer, who is responsible to the Committee for the efficient administration and day to day operation of the Service, which is carried out on a regional or area basis.

The Newton-le-Willows Urban District lies administratively within the purview of the Area Children's Officer of the Leigh Area, who is assisted by Childrens Social Workers, the latter being responsible for all matters relating to "deprived children, e.g. the provision of accommodation, the inspection and report on prospective foster homes, infant life protection, supervision of children to be adopted during the probationary period, the care and conveyance to suitable "places of safety" of children committed by the Courts to the care of the Authority as a "fit person" under the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, and so on.

The Area Children's Officer and her Visitors work in close co-operation with the Divisional Medical Officer and his staff.

The Leigh Area Children's Officer is:-

Miss J. W. Cole, 89/91, Railway Road, Leigh.  
Telephone: Leigh 1658.

## **10. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1933.**

### **NEGLECTED CHILDREN—PROBLEM FAMILIES**

Very deep consideration has been given in recent years in an effort to improve the lot of children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes — a problem formerly left almost exclusively to the good offices and unflagging zeal of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children—the N.S.P.C.C.. So often, however, is it found that such children come from poor stock, both mentally and physically, from such poor homes, structurally and socially, and that their whole environmental is so complex, that much more team work is required if the desired end is to be achieved: housing conditions, unemployment and financial stringency, marital disharmony, mental and emotional illness, improvidence and general social inadequacy are in various combinations and degrees at the root of parental neglect. Following an advisory memorandum issued jointly by the Home Office, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, which suggested the appointment by each Local Health Authority of a Co-ordinating Officer, (whose primary function should be to convene regular conferences of all persons and parties having responsibilities in these various fields) the County Council appointed the County Medical Officer of Health as its Co-ordinating Officer: and his responsibility has in turn been delegated to Divisional Medical Officers, within their respective Health Divisions.

## 11. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

So far as the Urban District is concerned, the Local Authority carrying responsibility for the implementation of Parts 111 and 1V of this Act is the County Council, and the administrative machinery, in this case also, is on the divisional basis. The main provisions of Part 111 relate to accommodation for those requiring it, and to welfare services in general for persons handicapped by infirmities such as blindness, deafness, dumbness, crippling physical defects, and other disabilities of a serious and permanent character.

The scheme of the County Council in regard to welfare services utilises very fully the various voluntary agencies already in existence prior to this legislation. It is widely comprehensive of the needs of all aged and handicapped persons, and includes provision for welfare, home and workshop employment, occupation therapy, the disposal of the products of employment, training facilities in arts and crafts, and for placement in holiday homes and hostels.

The County Council's policy in regard to aged persons is, of course, to assist them in every way to remain in their own homes as long as possible: thereafter, to provide supervision and help in specially designed old persons bungalows, where the Housing Authority are willing to accept this scheme and only finally to admit them to hostel care, or to other welfare accommodation. As a first step, the formation in every County District of a District Old Peoples' Welfare Committee, representative of all corporation bodies, both statutory and voluntary, concerned with the welfare of old people, is strongly advocated.

In this connection it is indeed gratifying to be able to record the Council's decision to co-operate with the Local Health Authority and Welfare Authority in its scheme for the provision of old peoples bungalows, and to note the excellent rate of progress in the construction of the two dozen dwellings on the Fairbrother Farm estate. These, all allocated and occupied by the end of November, will undoubtedly meet a long-standing need.

Mr. P. D. Parker, as Divisional Welfare Organiser, assists the Divisional Medical Officer in this newly developing field of socio-medical activity to promote the formation of District Old People's Welfare Committees, and to foster liaison and co-ordination between statutory and voluntary bodies concerned with the care of the aged and the handicapped.

Section 47 of the Act places on the Local County District Council responsibility for making applications to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order to secure the removal to a suitable hospital or other institution of any aged and infirm person who is unable to devote to himself proper care and attention, and is not receiving such from other persons. The application is made following certification by the Medical Officer of Health that such removal is necessary. No action under this Section was required during the current year.

Section 50 of the Act is of importance in that it places on the District Council the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district when it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the Authority.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS  
**REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
**FOR THE YEAR 1959**

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1958.

For the first year since 1955 the work was not disturbed by changes in inspectorial staff, and some progress was made in matters which had received less attention than was their due in the intervening years.

The effect of the implementation of the programme for smoke control areas, and the growing demand by the public for attention to environmental conditions, is likely to keep the staff more than fully occupied.

What has been achieved during the year may be assessed from the following:-

**1. GENERAL SANITATION**

**(a) Water Supply**

The Council has its own water undertaking under the Water Engineer and the water supply is derived from deep wells at Southworth Road and the Makerfield Pumping Station. All water going into supply was chlorinated. Extensions of the water mains were made to all new housing sites and a new 9" main was laid from the Southworth Road Works to serve the Parkside Colliery.

Samples of the raw water were taken at regular intervals for bacteriological examination from the two Works, as were samples of the chlorinated water taken from consumers' taps. All the samples were reported to be highly satisfactory.

A sample of raw water was taken from each of the Works and these were submitted for chemical analysis, with particular reference to fluoride content. Both were reported to be highly satisfactory, and the fluoride content was found to be 0.37 parts per million at Southworth Road and 0.29 parts per million at Makerfield.

**(b) Drainage and Sewerage.**

Three connections to the Sankey Valley Sewer were substantially completed during the years. Work has proceeded on the remaining two connections which should be completed in the near future.



(c) **Sanitary Accommodation.**

7 farms are served by privies and 32 houses by pail closets. All of these are outside the reach of sewers.

(d) **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

Refuse was collected in two Chelsea type 10 cubic yard side loading Dennis vehicles and one Dennis Dual Tip 18 cubic yard vehicle, by a staff of 3 drivers and 13 men, supervised by a foreman who was also responsible for the 2 men with a Bristol 25 Angledozer engaged on refuse disposal by controlled tipping at the Swan Road site.

To meet the increasing number of new houses with no back access for vehicles to facilitate loading, which was affecting the frequency of collections, it was decided to purchase a 12/14 cubic yard Dennis Shefflex rear loading vehicle to enable re-organisation of the collection into four rounds instead of three.

This vehicle was not delivered by the end of the year.

Collection of waste paper was continued and 138 tons 19 cwt were disposed of producing an income of £1042.2.7d.

Mr. Andrew Wilkie who had served the Department for 22 years, 18 of them as foreman retired in July and was succeeded by Mr. Charles S. Simm.

Mr. Wilkie had been foreman during the difficult years of the war and of the immediate post-war period, and his services were greatly appreciated.

(e) **Inspections during 1959**

Premises visited:—

No. of premises visited	....	....	....	....	....	....	2114
No. of visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	3568

Defects or nuisances:—

No. discovered	....	....	....	....	....	....	465
No. abated	....	....	....	....	....	....	454

No. of notices served:—

Informal	....	....	....	....	....	....	260
Statutory	....	....	....	....	....	....	118

(f) **Statistical Summary of Inspections Made, Notices Served etc.**

(i) Complaints received and investigated:-

Defects and Nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	....	190
Rats and Mice	....	....	....	....	....	....	87

(ii) **Analysis of Visits Made by Inspectors.**

(a) **General Sanitation.**

Water Supply	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	118
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	277
Stables and Piggeries	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Factories	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	46
Tents, Vans, Sheds	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Workplaces	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Refuse Collection & Disposal	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	105
Licensed Houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	24
Rats and Mice	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Smoke observations	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Schools	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	57
Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	675

(iii) **Housing.**

**Under Public Health Acts.**

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	366
Visits to above	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1168

**Under Housing Acts.**

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	83
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	271

**Verminous Premises.**

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	16

**Rent Act.**

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	26
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Miscellaneous Housing Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	28
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Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1970
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(iv) **Infectious Diseases.**

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	35
Visits re disinfections	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Miscellaneous I.D. visit	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	42

(v) **Meat and Food Inspection and Food Hygiene.**

Inspection of meat:	shops and stalls	....	....	....	14
	other premises	....	....	....	1
Visits to butchers	....	....	....	....	12
Fishmongers etc.	....	....	....	....	3
Grocers	....	....	....	....	76
Greengrocers and fruiterers	....	....	....	....	10
Dairies and milk distributors	....	....	....	....	54
Ice-cream premises	....	....	....	....	40
Food preparing premises	....	....	....	....	24
Market Stalls	....	....	....	....	744
Street vendors and hawkers' carts	....	....	....	....	48
Restaurants	....	....	....	....	14
Canteens	....	....	....	....	12
Clubs	....	....	....	....	2
Bakeries	....	....	....	....	5
<b>Visits in connection with sampling</b>					
Milk—bacteriological	....	....	....	....	54
Food and Drugs Samples	....	....	....	....	24
Water Sampling	....	....	....	....	16
Miscellaneous Food Visits	....	....	....	....	5
Total					1158
Total inspections and visits					3845

(vi) **Notices Served and Complied with.**

No. of informal notices served	....	....	....	....	260
No. of informal notices complied with			....	....	178
No. of statutory notices served	....	....	....	....	118
No. of statutory notices complied with	....	....	....		85



(vii) **Analysis of Defects noted and remedied.**

<i>Type of Defect</i>						<i>Recorded</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Chimney stacks, pots, flues	....	....				6	9
Brickwork and/or pointing	....	....				24	30
Doors and frames	....	....	....	....		8	10
Drain stoppages	....	....	....	....		39	39
Drainage defective	....	....	....	....		13	9
Dustbins	....	....	....	....	....	22	35
Firegrates	....	....	....	....	....	15	7
Floors	....	....	....	....	....	20	21
Paving	....	....	....	....	....	5	3
Rainwater pipes and gutters	....	....				44	58
Roofs	....	....	....	....	....	60	48
Water Supply	....	....	....	....	....	25	27
Plaster	....	....	....	....	....	48	42
Sinks	....	....	....	....	....	7	4
Waste Pipes	....	....	....	....	....	3	3
Water Pipes	....	....	....	....	....	26	21
W.C. Structures	....	....	....	....		16	15
W.C. basins, cisterns etc.	.....					18	20
Window frames, sashes, cords	....					54	37
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....		12	16
						—	—
Totals	....	....	....	....		465	454
						—	—

(g) **Shops and Offices.**

	<i>No. of inspections</i>
Action taken under provisions of:	
(a) Shops Act 1950 relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences	24
(b) Public Health Act 1936, relating to conditions in Offices	6

(h) **Atmospheric Pollution.**

Notification was received that this Urban District was considered to be a Black Area for the purposes of the Clean Air Act, and that proposals for the establishment of smoke control areas should be submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

The congratulations which you recorded on receipt of the detailed report on this subject were greatly appreciated.

It was decided

- (i) to make a byelaw with regard to smoke prevention as an addition to the existing Building byelaws;
- (ii) that all future housing estates of the Council be smoke controlled from the outset;
- (iii) that all future private housing estates in the urban district be smoke controlled from the outset; and
- (iv) that the following return and proposals be submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government:-

“Name of local authority: Newton-le-Willows U.D.C.

Approximate number of premises in the local authority area: 7,760.

Acreage of local authority area: 3,103.

Number of premises and acreage of land in smokeless zones and smoke control areas:-

	<i>Covered by Orders made to date</i>	<i>Estimated additions covered by Orders to be made during:-</i>					<i>Target year for completion of programme</i>
		1960*	1961	1962	1963	1964	
Premises	Nil	156	266	296	308	275	
Dwellings	Nil	149	256	287	232	248	1978
Acres	Nil	31	13.2	16.4	16.4	16.8	

\* Should the supply of smokeless fuels be favourable it is hoped to include a further area of 459 dwellings, 463 premises, and covering 94.8 acres, in which adaptations would be necessary to only 13 premises.”

#### (j) **Vermin Control.**

The number of premises infested by verminous insects remained low, one Council House and four other houses being found to be infested.

All were treated by the department.

Action relating to rodent control was as follows:

(a) Council Houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
(b) Other Houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
No. of visits to verminous premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
No. of verminous premises treated	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5

#### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

	<i>Type of Property</i>		
	<i>Non-Agricultural Dwelling houses</i>	<i>All other</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>
(a) No. of properties in district	7042	460	18
(b) No. of properties inspected	309	51	6
(c) Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections)....	587	192	10

(d)	No. of properties inspected which were found to be in- fested by:—							
	Rats—major	....	....	—	—	—		
	minor	....	....	85	18	—		
	Mice—major	....	....	—	—	—		
	minor	....	....	19	10	—		
(e)	No. of infested properties treated					104	26	—
(f)	Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments)					104	26	—
(g)	No. of “Block” control schemes carried out					2	—	—
(h)	Other Action							

A test of 10% of the sewer manholes was made in April followed by a treatment of those showing signs of infestation and adjacent manholes.

The new technique of extended pre-baiting of sewer manholes was continued and the results were very satisfactory. It seems however, that it will be several years before complete eradication of rats from sewers can be achieved.

#### (k) **Factories Act, 1937.**

Routine inspections continued throughout the year and no difficulty was experienced in the administration of Parts 1 and VIII of the Act.

Certificates of means of escape in case of fire were issued in respect of two factories, leaving two still requiring certificates.

The total number of certificates issued, to the end of the year, excluding re-certification on alteration of premises, was 15.

## 2. **HOUSING.**

The programme submitted to the Minister under the 1954 Act was substantially completed by the end of the year and the final stage, Grafton Street (No. 1) Clearance Area 1958 was confirmed by the Minister, following a Public Inquiry, in July. Displacement of the occupiers is proceeding.

Appeals against two demolition orders were to be heard in December but the hearing was adjourned.

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, introduced the Standard Grant scheme of improvement to houses and this, together with the Discretionary Grant scheme of the Housing Act 1949 and the Housing (Financial



Provisions) Act 1958, resulted in 27 houses being improved during the year with approval granted for a further 90.

(a)		Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—	
	Total number of houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	448
	No. of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	....	1438
	Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:		
	No. found during year	....	20
	Total estimated number at end of year	....	48
	No. of unfit dwelling houses capable of being rendered fit	....	377
(b)		Houses demolished:-	
(i)		In Clearance Areas	
	Houses unfit for human habitation	....	nil
	Persons displaced	....	39
	Families displaced	....	11
(ii)		Under section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	25
	Persons displaced	....	53
	Families displaced	....	20
(iii)		Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health:	
	No. demolished	....	1
	Persons displaced	....	—
	Families displaced	....	—
(c)		Unfit Houses Closed:—	
	Under sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1947 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953	....	2
	Persons displaced	....	1
	Families displaced	....	1
(d)		Progress under 1954 Act Programme:—	
Action in extension of the programme must continue as, contrary to expectations, the decay of property was not halted by the inducement of increased rents, and some houses which, it was expected, would be repaired, have been further neglected bringing them within the scope of section 16, Housing Act, 1957.			

No. of houses demolished	122
No. of houses closed....	8
No. of orders made but not yet complied with	32
No. of houses in Clearance Areas	25
No. of house closed or demolished voluntarily by owners	3
No. of houses made fit after undertakings by owners	1
	<hr/>
Total number of houses dealt with	191
	<hr/>
Total number of houses included in Programme....	170
	<hr/>
(e) Unfit houses made Fit and in which Defects were Remedied:—	
After informal action by local authority....	185
After formal notice	65

(f) Overcrowding

No new case of overcrowding of a dwelling was discovered during the year and one was abated.

For the first time since 1939 it can be reported that no case of overcrowding on the Housing Act standard is known to exist within the district.

Revision of the standard of overcrowding, which was expected within a few years of the Housing Act 1936, to a “bedroom” basis, would provide a more satisfactory standard and is overdue.

### 3. RENT ACT, 1957

Applications received on Form I	17
No. of G. Forms checked at houses	22
No. of Certificates authorised—in full	13
—in part	9
No. of Certificates refused	—
Notices of proposal to issue Certificates (Form J)....	22
Undertakings accepted (Form K)	5
Undertakings refused	—
Certificates issued (Form L)	17
No. of applications for Cancellation of Certificates (Form M)	6
No. of notices to tenants of intention to cancel (Form N)	6
No. of cancellations	2
No. of refusals to cancel	4
No. of applications for Certificates that defects had not been remedied (Form O)	3
No of Certificates (Form P) issued....	3

4. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply**—action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Act and Regulations

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:—

No. of distributors registered by the local authority and operating from:—

(a) dairies in the district	....	....	....	....	....	4
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies	....					61

**The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-54.**

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1959 in respect of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	....	....	15
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**The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised) and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-53**

No. of licences issued in respect of "Heat treated" milk:—

Pasteurising plants	....	....	....	....	....	....	0
Sterilising plants	....	....	....	....	....	....	0
Retail distributors:							
(a) "Pasteurised"	....	....	....	....			25
(b) "Sterilised"	....	....	....	....			73

No action was necessary under Regulations 19 and 20 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 nor under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods (excluding adulteration)**

There is no public abattoir nor private slaughterhouse in the district and meat and other foods were inspected on request and during routine inspections of food premises, etc.

The following food stocks or consignments were condemned during the year:—

<i>Type of Food</i>	<i>Quantity</i>		<i>Weight</i>
	<i>Condemned</i>		
	<i>Tins</i>		<i>Lbs.</i>
Canned Meat	....	79	390
Canned Vegetables	....	89	68
Canned Soup	....	10	9
Canned Fruit	....	71	77
Canned Fish	....	28	7
Miscellaneous Canned Foods	....	71	43



Cheese	....	....	....	....	....	20
Rice, Sago, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	17
Flour	....	....	....	....	....	9
Total weight.	5 cwt.	2 qtr.	24 lbs.			

(c) **No. of food premises, by type of business, in district at end of year**

General grocers and provision dealers	....	....	....	92
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	....	....	....	21
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	....	....	....	1
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	....	....	....	20
Bakers and/or Confectioners	....	....	....	10
Fried Fish shops	....	....	....	14
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	....	....	....	32
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	....	....	....	36
Others	....	....	....	9

(d) **No. of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, the Lancashire County Council Acts or other local Acts.**

<i>Type of business</i>	<i>Legislation under which registration effected</i>	<i>No. registered at 31/12/59</i>	<i>No. of inspections of registered premises during year</i>
Preservation of Food	Food & Drugs Act	10	24
Sale, Manufacture or Storage of Ice Cream	Food & Drugs Act	78	40
Hawkers of food and their premises:—	Lancashire County Council General Powers Act, 1951		
(a) Fish, Fruit and Vegetables		11	31
(b) Preserved Foods		9	13
(c) Confectionery		2	4

(c) **Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Sampling during the year:—**

Milk—No. of samples taken	....	....	....	....	34
No. adulterated	....	....	....	....	0
Articles other than Milk—					
No. of samples taken	....	....	....	....	48
No. adulterated	....	....	....	....	0

<i>Articles</i>	<i>No. Taken</i>
Milk .....	34
Pure Lard .....	2
Butter .....	2
Meat Soup (Beef) .....	1
Fish Paste .....	1
Meat Paste .....	1
Jelly .....	1
Cheese Spread .....	1
White Pepper .....	1
Curry Powder .....	1
Parsley & Thyme .....	1
Glaze Cherries .....	1
Semolina .....	1
Mixed Spice .....	1
Cream (Sterilised)....	1
Dried Sage .....	1
Sweetened Sponge Mixture .....	1
Apple & Strawberry Jam .....	1
Almond Flavouring .....	1
Shredded Beef Suet .....	1
Baking Powder .....	1
Salmon Spread .....	1
Cheese Spread .....	1
Cream of Tarter .....	1
Ground Rice .....	1
Full Cream Evaporated Milk .....	1
Tea .....	1
Pearl Barley .....	1
Whole Rice .....	1
Pancake Mixture .....	1
Coffee .....	1
Salmon Savoury .....	1
Margarine .....	1
Dripping Fat .....	1
Cooking Fat .....	1
Sunny Spread .....	1
Olive Oil .....	1
Ginger .....	1
Gravy Browning .....	1
Sodium Bicarbonate .....	1
Raisins .....	1
Dates .....	1
Figs.... ..	1
Cinnamon .....	1
Malt Vinegar .....	1
Beef Sausage ....	1
Pork Sausage .....	1

**(f) Action under Food & Drugs Act 1955 and Regulations.**

Alterations and improvements were secured in 53 food premises and it was possible to purchase more samples of food for analysis at more regular intervals than in recent years.

**10. ADDITIONAL DUTIES.**

**(a) Petroleum Acts and Orders**

There were 28 licensed storage premises for petroleum spirit of which 20 were for private use and 8 were for the supply of petrol to the public.

1 premises were licensed to store carbide of calcium.

Model Codes in respect of storage premises were issued during the year and new regulations come into force on 1st January, 1960.

All licence holders were informed of these and only one cannot comply with the recommendations of the Model Code. In this case the petrol pumps are of a type which precludes compliance with the requirements regarding a limiting device, and the owner has indicated his intention to install new pumps.

**(b) Lethal Chamber**

An electrical cabinet for the painless destruction of unwanted dogs and cats was maintained and a charge of one shilling per animal is made except to pensioners.

93 dogs and 57 cats were dealt with and the income amounted to £7-0-0d.

**(c) Shops Act, 1950**

The Council is the Shops Act authority for the district and the Public Health Inspectors were appointed Inspectors for all the purposes of the Act.

Generally the Act is being observed but suspicion that mixed shops, legitimately open for the sale of exempted articles after general closing hours and on Sundays, might be dealing in non-exempted goods, necessitated the expenditure of a great deal of time outside normal working hours.

**(d) Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

Licences were issued in respect of the two pet shops in the district, and the shops were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

**(e) Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1957.**



The County Council delegated its functions under this Order to the Council, and inspection of piggeries etc. revealed that no premises within the District needed to be registered.

## 6. CONCLUSION.

The foregoing statistics and comments give some indication of the variety and extent of the work carried out during the year in the field of environmental hygiene, but to obtain a true picture from them the perspective should be that they are concerned with efforts to protect and improve the environmental conditions of human beings both as individuals and as a community.

Although this report appears above my name it represents the efforts of a team — the staff of the Department, fellow officers of the Council, members of the Health Committee, and members of the Council, to all of whom I tender sincere thanks.

In particular I am grateful to Mrs. Lightfoot who has conscientiously and efficiently coped with the ever growing clerical work for 14 years, and Dr. Crawford whose wide experience of Public Health work may be drawn on at need.

Yours faithfully,

L. M. BOOTH,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



